



How to Participate

Any existing school as well as districts planning to build new schools in Kentucky are eligible to participate. The KGHS program can be easily modified to be age appropriate for Preschool through twelfth grade. To participate in KGHS, simply follow these steps:

- ▶ Join the KGHS program by printing off a pledge form from the website and have your principle sign it.
- ▶ Create a Green & Healthy team consisting of students, teachers, and school staff.
- ▶ For new schools, the architect and/or contractor fill out the KGHS design manual.
- ▶ Complete inventories and submit the results online.
- ▶ Decide on and plan Improvement Projects, and submit these proposals online.
- ▶ Complete Improvement Projects and submit a short report on the projects' success.
- ▶ Come to the Annual KGHS Awards Ceremony and receive recognition for your school's efforts!

Contact Us



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**Kentucky Environmental
Education Council**

www.keec.ky.gov



www.kde.state.ky.us

The Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools Program is a joint program of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council and the Kentucky Department of Education. The program is administered by the KEEC, an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.



A joint program
of the KEEC and
KDE



*Empowering students and
teachers to create safer,
healthier, and more
sustainable schools*

www.greenschools.ky.gov



Program Overview

KGHS is a state-wide, web-based, and student-centered program that empowers students and staff to move their school toward becoming safer, healthier, and more environmentally sustainable places of learning. KGHS also provides information and awards to districts that wish to build greener and healthier schools.



This inquiry based program helps close the achievement gap and increase student efficacy while using the environment as an integrated learning context. All grade levels of existing schools, as well as schools under construction are invited to participate!

Students, along with faculty and staff, complete inventories in 9 different categories which help them identify some of the needs of their school.

Once a need is identified, students research the issue and plan an Improvement Project that addresses that need.

As students move through the KGHS program by completing inventories and improvement projects, they become eligible for awards presented at the Annual KGHS Awards Ceremony.

Inventories

There are a total of 9 inventories in the KGHS program. All of the inventories help students explore health, safety, and sustainability issues within their school.

Inventories allow students to gather baseline data on the functioning of their school and help them identify areas that may need improvement.



For example, after completing the Energy Inventory, students may launch a campaign to plant deciduous trees on the side of the school building that gets the most sunlight during warmer months.

Inventories are available in several formats, including versions for both teachers and students. Inventories are also aligned to Kentucky State Core Content. All inventories are submitted online through the KGHS website.

Improvement Projects

KGHS Improvement Projects (IP) are chosen and designed by the students participating in the program. Some examples of completed projects include:

- ▶ Starting a cafeteria recycling program
- ▶ Starting a composting program
- ▶ Building an outdoor classroom
- ▶ Planting a vegetable or wildlife habitat garden
- ▶ Launching a walk/bike to school campaign

The KGHS coordinator offers support to schools in the form of assistance with IP ideas, grant proposals, and educational curricula/resources. Often, local business are willing to support schools with funding for small Improvement Projects.

Students submit proposals and short reports for their IP to the KGHS website and earn credit toward awards.

